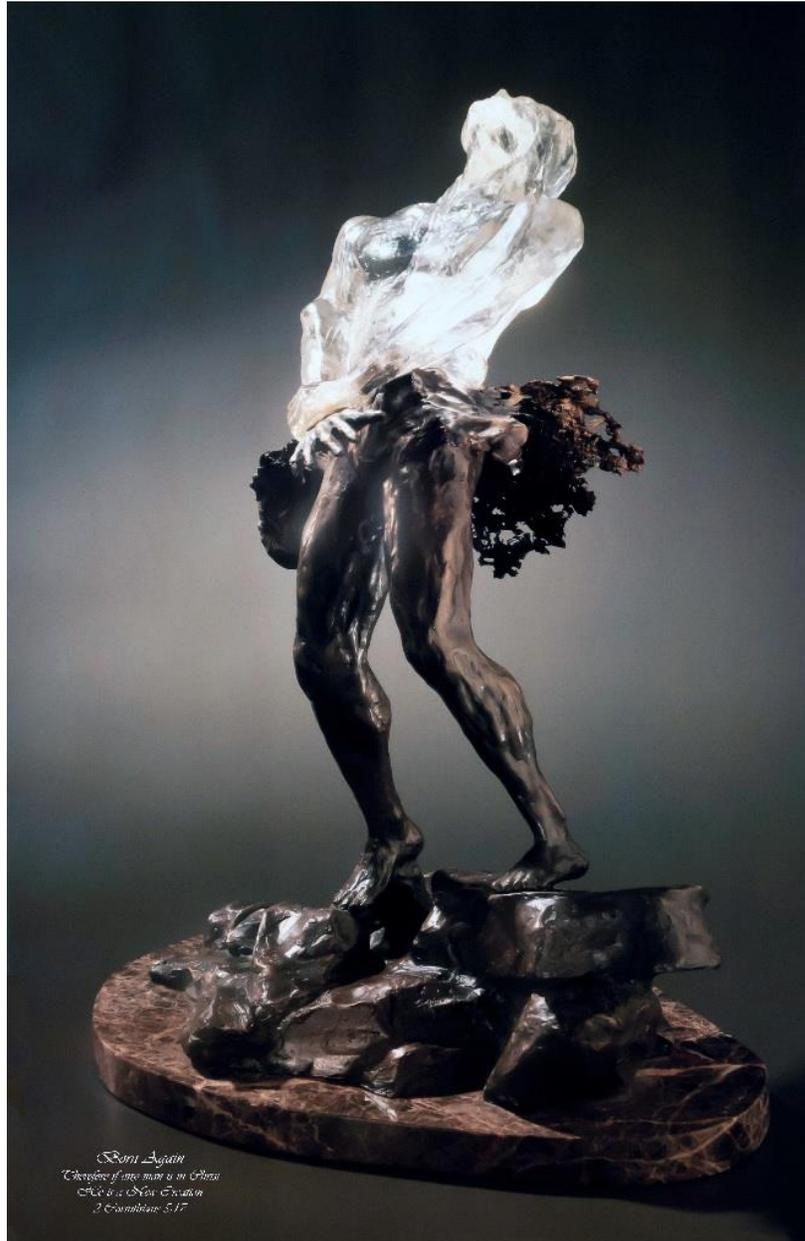


St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Morning Prayer: Rite Two

March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Lent 2021



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¹ Dean Kermit Allison, *Born Again* (2016), Bronze and Transparent Polymer on Stone. Dimensions: 17" x 13" x 10".

The following text has been taken from the Book of Common Prayer page 75ff.

Processional Hymn - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Nettleton) H# 686

The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. *Joel 2:13*

The following Confession of Sin

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The lay Officiant remains kneeling, or the Priest stands and says,

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The people sit and the Lector says

A Reading from Numbers 21:4-9

After the Reading, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow

A Psalm follows the first Reading.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

At the conclusion of the Psalm, all respond with the Gloria Patria saying:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

The Lector continues with the second lesson saying

A Reading from Ephesians 2:1-10

After the Reading, the Lector will say

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Gospel Hymn - Amazing Grace (New Britain) H# 671

The first half of the Gospel Hymn is sung before the Gospel reading, and the second half is sung after the Gospel reading.

All standing, the Officiant reads the Gospel, first saying:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 3:14-21.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel, Officiant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon – The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Then follows Suffrage A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

This prayer for mission is then added

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

Announcements

Offertory Hymn - Here O My Lord (Nyack) H# 318

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn - Lift High the Cross (Crucifer) H# 473

The Officiant may then conclude with the following

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus
for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*



The text of the service of worship contained in this program has its basis in the *Book of Common Prayer* (1979), and has been augmented for age appropriateness. The *Book of Common Prayer* alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church.

Morsel for Meditation

We say we want a renewal of character in our day but don't really know what we ask for. To have a renewal of character is to have a renewal of a creedal order that constrains, limits, binds, obligates, and compels. This price is too high for us to pay. We want character but without unyielding conviction; we want strong morality but without the emotional burden of guilt or shame; we want virtue but without particular moral justifications that invariably offend; we want good without having to name evil; we want decency without the authority to insist upon it; we want more community without any limitations to personal freedom. In short, we want what we cannot possibly have on the terms that we want it.

James Davison Hunter, *The Death of Character: Moral Education in an Age Without Good or Evil* (Basic Books, 2011)